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RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959



S H E P T O N M A L L E T

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

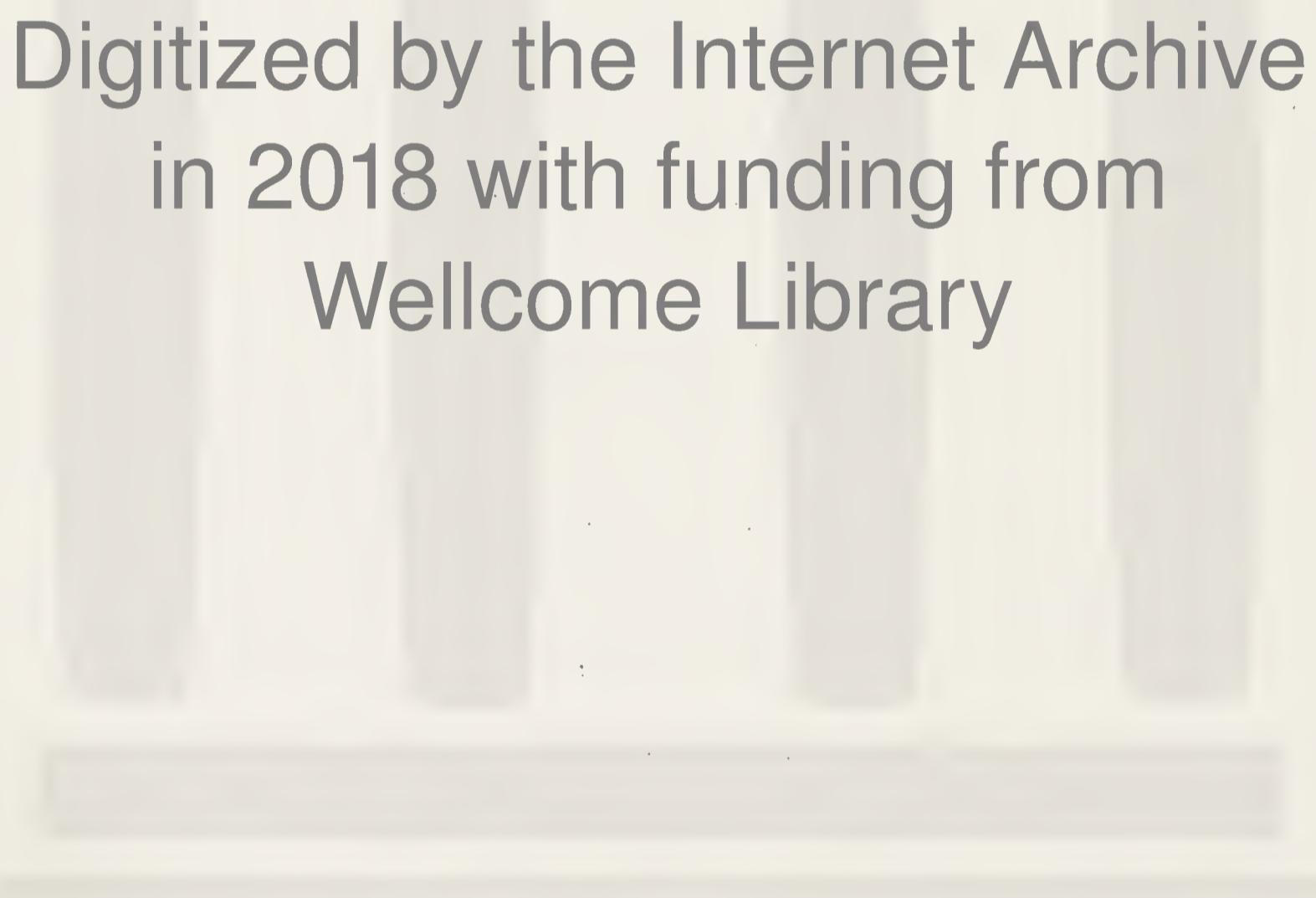
(Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST D E C E M B E R, 1959.

-O-O-O-O-O-

Highfield House,
Park Road,
Shepton Mallet,
Somerset.



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"Merrymead"
Charlton Road,
Shepton Mallet,
Somerset.

August, 1960.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHEPTON MALLET.

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my
Annual Report for the year 1959.

I have the honour to be, Mr.
Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F.R. BUCKLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

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SHEPTON MALLET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS - 1959

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART - TIME)

DR. T.E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. - To 12/7/59 (Deceased).

DR. F.R. BUCKLER, L.R.C.P., D.C.H. - From 14/8/59.

HEALTH VISITOR

MISS D. HORRELL

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.J. LAWRENCE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I. &
S.I.E.J. Board. Cert. Meat & Other Foods.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

A.J. PAGE, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. Board Cert.
Meat & Other Foods.

D.R. BURTON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.
Board, Dip. Meat & Other Foods.
(from 16/3/59)

DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS INCLUDE;

Sanitary & Housing Administration, Meat & Food Inspection,
Control of Refuse Collection & Disposal, Salvage, Council
House Administration (Letting & Control of Tenancies) and
Rodent Control.

PART-TIME RODENT OPERATOR

W.J. PALMER.

COMMITTEES DEALING WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee. Housing Committee.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).	47,167.
Population (mid-year 1959)	10,210.
Rateable Value	£77,420.
Produce of a Penny Rate (Estimated)	£300.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

(A) BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>				<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total.	...	...	...	79	72
Legitimate..	...	...	...	78	70
Illegitimate.	...	...	...	1	2

Stillbirths.

Total..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Legitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Illegitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	0	0

(B) DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths from all causes. . .	110	43	67

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :-

(b) From Other Causes 0

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :-

Deaths from Measles (All ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under Two Years)	0

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year; in fact, the number of deaths of Infants under one year of age is still small. The total number of deaths occurring in the District was 110, compared with 109 in 1958.

The Chief Causes of Death were :-

Heart Disease & Diseases of the Circulatory System.	54
Cancer.	12
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	14
Old Age.	8

In All Causes of Death :-

Those dying between the ages of 75 & 80 were 16
Those dying between the ages of 81 & 85 were 22

Those dying between the ages of 86 & 90. 9

Those dying above the age of 90. 5

Thus the total deaths above the age of 75 years were 52 or 47.27% of the total deaths.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<u>Disease</u>		<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospitals.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Measles.	...	101	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	...	4	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	...	5	-	-
Typhoid Fever...	...	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever...	...	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	...	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	...	4	1	-
Tuberculosis:-				
(a) Respiratory	...	3	3	-
(b) Non-Respiratory.	2	1	-	-
	124	5		0

The notification of Infectious Diseases in the District by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory.

4. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No cases notified.

5. CAUSES OF SICKNESS

There was the tail end of last year's Measles epidemic continuing into the early part of this year.

6. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS
AND
OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A. Professional Nursing in the Home :-

(1) General :- There are 9 Nurses in the District engaged in general district work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.

(II) For Infectious Diseases :- Cases of Infectious Disease are either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospital's outside the District.

B. Midwives.

There are 9 certified Midwives practising in the District.

C. Clinics & Treatment Centres. None in the District.

D. Hospitals situated in the District. None.

E. Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children. None in the District.

F. Ambulance Facilities.

(i) For Infectious Cases - None in the District.

(ii) For Non-Infectious Cases & Accidents - The Motor Ambulance provided by the County Council and kept at the Ambulance Station, Commercial Road, Shepton Mallet, (Tel. 2242), is used when necessary.

G. Scabies.

No cases of scabies have been brought to my notice.

7. MINISTRY OF HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENQUIRIES IN
RESPECT OF SEWERAGE OR WATER SUPPLIES.

See report of Senior Public Health Inspector.

8. HOUSING.

For details see the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

(a) Privately owned - One at Downside College, Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

Water - Main.

Treatment - Re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

The estimated average number of bathers daily during the season is not known as this is a private swimming pool for scholars at Downside College only. No samples taken.

(b) Owned by Local Authority - None.

10. LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Bath and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept by Messrs. Boots (Chemist) and Miss. Watkins (Chemist) at Shepton Mallet, and can be obtained by Practitioners on the National Health Prescription Form.

11. FOOD POISONING.

The four cases of food poisoning were all in one family, and the baby was the only one admitted to hospital.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A) GENERAL.

The Council learned with profound regret of the death, on 11th July, 1959, of Dr. T.E. Coulson, Medical Officer of Health. The Council paid high tribute to Dr. Coulson's many outstanding qualities and for his services to the Council and district. Dr. Coulson was highly respected by myself and the staff of the department and the excellent relationship between Dr. Coulson as head of the Public Health Department and the Staff of the Department was always extremely appreciated.

Following the death of Dr. Coulson and before a new Medical Officer of Health was appointed, there occurred in August 2 cases of food poisoning at Evercreech. Dr. P.A. Trafford of Evercreech willingly gave me the necessary medical assistance and the Council placed on record their sincere appreciation of his assistance.

On the 14th August, 1959 Dr. F.R. Buckler of Shepton Mallet was appointed temporary Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. A. Denman relinquished his appointment as Additional Public Health Inspector on 31st January, 1959 after $6\frac{1}{2}$ years conscientious service. Mr. D.R. Burton was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector on 16th March, 1959 and obtained his certificate as an Inspector of Meat & Other Foods in May, 1959.

Councillor J. Matthews and I attended a meeting of the Bristol & West Clean Air Committee in April, 1959.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into force in 1959 and brought into being "Standard Grants" which are administered

by the Public Health Department.

Much time was spent during the year on investigations into the drainage circumstances of Holcombe, Filton and Ditchett (see Part (C) - Sewerage and Drainage).

B - WATER SUPPLIES.

(1) Council's Main Supplies.

During the year negotiations continued for the handing over of the Council's Water Undertaking to the Bristol Waterworks Company on 1st April, 1960, and the draft order was approved by the Council.

No extensions of the Council's mains were carried out during the year. Owing to the dry summer weather there were restrictions in the supply to Stratton-on-the-Fosse. In this parish the Council purchase water in bulk from the Downside Abbey Trustees and from the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council, and there were shortages in both these supplies. There were no shortages of water from the Council's own supplies in 1959. Untreated water supplied to part of the parish of West Bradley from the Council's source at West Bradley proved at times to be subject to seasonal contamination but this contamination is surface pollution only and it has not been found practicable to chlorinate this water.

Sampling of the Council's supplies was carried out with the following results :--

(a) Chlorinated Water.

Number of samples taken..... 100

Satisfactory..... 97

Unsatisfactory..... 5

(b) Untreated Water.

Number of samples taken..... 19

Satisfactory..... 10

Unsatisfactory..... 9

The 9 unsatisfactory samples of untreated water were from the Council's main water sources before treatment (and this water is subsequently chlorinated) and from the West Bradley supply mentioned previously.

Ten samples of Council Main water were taken for chemical analysis during the year and in all cases the results showed the water to be satisfactory in purity but very hard. This hardness is mainly temporary - that is, due to the presence of bicarbonates of lime and magnesium which are precipitated when the water is boiled. The water supplies of the district are not known to have any dissolving effect on lead.

Thanks are expressed to Mr. T.P. Jordan, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for information regarding the Council's water supplies.

(2) Private Main Supplies.

Water is supplied from private main supplies in some hamlets and areas in the district.

Following a series of samples the Medical Officer of Health reported to the Public Health Committee in December, 1959, that he considered that both the Southhill Estate Supply in Crammore Parish (serving most of this parish) and the Waterlip Supply in Crammore Parish, were unsuitable both as to quality and quantity. The Medical Officer also drew attention to the lack of a proper water supply in the "Wagon & Horses" area in Doulting Parish.

The Council agreed that immediate

action should be taken to secure an improvement in these 3 supplies but recognised that as the Council's Water Undertaking would be handed over to the Bristol Waterworks Company on 1st April, 1960, it would not be practicable to execute the works before the transfer date. The matter was, therefore, referred to the Bristol Waterworks Company and a meeting was held on 15th December, 1959, between the owners of the Southill Estate Supply, the Bristol Waterworks Company and the Council to consider ways and means of improving those supplies. As a result of this meeting the Bristol Waterworks Company are preparing a draft scheme for the Cranmore and Waterlip areas and the Council are awaiting details. Owing to extreme shortage of water at Waterlip an emergency supply by means of a 1,000 gallon tank was arranged by the Council's Surveyor.

Some further samples were taken from the private main supply to Oakhill village in Ashwick Parish and the results are still not wholly satisfactory.

Samples of water taken from the private main supplies in the district gave the following results :-

Number of samples taken.....	38
Satisfactory.....	6
Unsatisfactory.....	32

3. Individual Private Supplies.

215 houses in the district are still supplied from individual wells or springs but in most cases these are in outlying areas where main supplies are not available.

Samples were taken from these supplies with the following results:-

Number of samples taken.....	31
Satisfactory.....	10
Unsatisfactory.....	21

Action was taken as necessary with regard to the unsatisfactory supplies.

4. Sources of Supply to the Houses in the District.

Table A on page 34 shows the nature of the supply to the houses in each parish. It will be seen that of 3,207 houses in the district, 2,837 (88.5%) have a piped supply of water either from a public main or a private main, 155 (4.8%) have to rely on standpipes for their supply of water, 179 (5.6%) have spring or well water laid on internally and 36 (1.1%) of the houses have to rely on an outside well or spring. The majority of these 36 houses with an outside well or spring are unfit and will be dealt with under Slum Clearance procedure.

During the year 10 houses were connected to a main piped supply. The number of houses relying on a standpipe supply was reduced by 26, the number having an internal supply of water from a well or spring was reduced by 4 and the number of houses relying on an outside well or spring was reduced by 4. These reductions were the result of slum clearance and voluntary efforts on the part of the owners.

Table B on page 35 (Sanitary Facilities of Houses) shows that 2,584 houses in the district (80.6%) obtain their water supply from the Council's mains and 253 (7.9%) from private mains.

Note. Any apparent discrepancy in the figures given is due to houses being closed by Slum Clearance procedure.

(C) SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

1. Sewerage Schemes.

(a) Gurney Slade. In January, this scheme received the formal consent of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and work commenced on 1st April. During the year good progress was made but at the end of the year delays in the completion stages were being experienced.

(b) Evercreech. In January, a letter was received from the Ministry raising no objections to the acceptance by the Council of a tender of £1,851.7.0. for the construction of the surface water sewer at Prestleigh Road and the County Council as Highway Authority, agreed to contribute one third of the ascertained cost up to a maximum of £676.13.4d. The work was commenced on 1st June and this part of the comprehensive sewerage scheme was completed at the end of August.

With regard to the reconstruction of the Sewage Works, the second part of the comprehensive scheme, negotiations with Messrs. C. & G. Prideaux Ltd., as to the trade effluent agreement continued. In August provisional agreement was reached with Messrs C. & G. Prideaux Ltd., respecting the basis of design of the proposed sewage disposal works and the basis to be employed regarding the apportionment of Capital and running costs. The Council's Consulting Engineers were then instructed to prepare outline details of the reconstructed sewage disposal works for submission to the Ministry. It was observed that the revised capital cost of the new works was estimated at £45,000 and that Messrs Prideaux Ltd., would be required to contribute £7,327. At the end of the year the agreement with Messrs. C & G Prideaux Ltd., was being prepared and the outline scheme was forwarded to the Ministry.

(c) Stratton-on-the-Fosse. At the begining of the year the County Council expressed the opinion to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that in view of changes in the sewerage situation since the Local Inquiry held in 1951, the Ministry should investigate the proposed second stage of the scheme. Accordingly the Ministry held an investigation in January into the urgency of the need to execute the second stage of this scheme and subsequently informed the Council that the Ministry had agreed that Stage II of the scheme could now proceed in the tendered sum of £19,062. 10. 8d. The County Council also approved the scheme for the purposes of their deficiency contribution. The Ministry subsequently awarded a half yearly grant as a contribution towards the cost. Work commenced on this scheme on 11th. July, 1959, and at the year's end good progress had been made.

(d) Proposed Sewerage Scheme for Ditchleaf, Pilton & Holcombe.

In September, I submitted a report to the Council regarding the drainage circumstances of these 3 villages to assist the Council in deciding the order of priority in which sewerage schemes for these 3 villages should be carried out. The report was investigated by the Council who at the same time observed that certain other parishes might also have good cases for the provision of sewerage schemes. The Council were also mindful of the financial implications of carrying out sewerage schemes which necessitated care in deciding which project or projects should be undertaken. The Council decided to ask their Consulting Engineers to prepare Outline Schemes and estimated costs of providing sewerage schemes at Pilton, Holcombe & Ditchleaf (separate consideration to be given to the inclusion or otherwise of Alhampton in the Ditchleaf scheme) for further consideration.

(e) Other Parishes. In September the Council decided that, in addition to Cranmore, such other parishes as selected by the Medical Officer of Health and myself be surveyed with a view to the presentation of a report as to the drainage circumstances of such parishes. In December a report was submitted to the Council on investigations into the drainage circumstances of West Cranmore. It was reported to the Council that although there were some public health nuisances they were not of a serious nature but that on housing grounds there appeared to be a need for additional sewage disposal plant. The Council formed the opinion that expenditure on sewerage might be fully justified if and when further housing development was carried out and consideration of a sewerage scheme for West Cranmore was adjourned until more information was available as to housing developments in the parish.

2. Pollution of Rivers and Streams. Apart from the pollution of rivers and streams where sewerage schemes in unsewered villages will eventually alleviate this, serious pollution of the River Sheppey at Croscombe (caused by the unsatisfactory effluent from the Urban District Council's new sewage works) continued and complaints were again received. During the dry summer weather the smell from the River Sheppey at Croscombe was appalling and owing to the seriousness of the matter the Council asked the Urban District Council to receive representatives from the Rural District Council for discussion. A meeting between representatives of the 2 Councils was held in October when the Rural District Council representatives informed the representatives from the Urban District Council that the prevailing very unsatisfactory circumstances could not be tolerated.

and that they expected the Urban District Council to take urgent and effective measures to stop the pollution of the river. The Urban Council admitted the bad state of the river and agreed that their sewage disposal works were not functioning properly. The Urban Council explained that their problem was mainly that of trade effluent. At the same time the Somerset River Board and other Authorities along the River Sheppoy requested the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to hold an investigation into the matter and this investigation (of a private nature) was held in December.

3. Drainage of Existing Houses.

Table B on page 35 shows the number of houses in the district drained to a public sewer at the end of 1959 as 1,021 (51.8%), an increase of 21 over the previous year. 1516 houses (47.5%) are drained to cesspits or septic tanks and 670 houses (20.9%) have no drainage or have unsatisfactory drainage (56 less than in 1955).

(D) CLOSETS AND OTHER SANITARY FACILITIES.

Table B on page 35 shows that 2,516 houses in the district (78.6%) have a water closet, an increase of 65 on last year; 18 houses (0.6%) have shared closets (2 less than last year); 617 houses (19.2%) have a pail or chemical closet (40 less than last year) and 56 houses (1.7%) have a privy closet (15 less than last year).

The table also shows that 281 houses in the district (3.3%) have no sink (31 less than last year) and 1,197 (37.3%) have no bath (48 less than last year).

The general improvement under this heading is mainly due to 3 factors - slum clearance, Improvement grants and voluntary efforts by owners.

E - REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL / SALVAGE.

1. Refuse Collection & Disposal.

The Council's 12 cubic yard Bedford lorry (with diesel engine) is now in its sixth year of service and the lorry and the crew of driver and 2 loaders continue to give satisfactory service. There were, however, some breakdowns of the lorry but these did not seriously disrupt the collection service. The fortnightly collection for each parish continued.

The tip at Moorwood (Ashwick) continued in operation as the sole tip and the tip was kept in a satisfactory condition by the refuse lorry crew.

During the year 623 loads of refuse were collected, a slight decrease on last year.

2. Salvage.

(a) Waste Paper. During the year the waste paper dealers were still imposing certain restrictions by way of quota to keep an even flow of waste paper collection but 26 tons 11 cwts were despatched to the dealers and yielded the sum of £195. 3. 8d (compared with £107.9.3. in 1958).

(b) Scrap Metal.

22 tons 4 cwts., of scrap metal was despatched to the dealers during the year, and the Council received £90. 7. 11d (compared with £95.9.0d. for the previous year).

(c) General.

Total income from salvage amounted to £285.11.7d. some £82 more than last year. Out of this income must be deducted the men's bonus, but since the new bonus rates came into force the amount of salvage collected has greatly increased.

(F) GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS.

1. Smoke Abatement. The Council's attention was drawn to the severe dust nuisance in the case of some of the quarries and tar macadam plants, accentuated by the exceptionally dry summer during the year. A survey of all the quarries in the district is being made to ascertain if anything can be done to abate these dust nuisances. Quarrying is an essential industry of the district and dust omission in some degree is unavoidable. Legislation, including the Clean Air Act of 1956, is singularly unhelpful in this type of atmospheric pollution.
2. Caravans & Camping Sites. At the year's end 13 licences for individual caravans were in force. 9 of these caravans were occupied all the year round, 3 were being occupied as a temporary measure and 1 was occupied seasonally only. One camping site for 40 caravans was re-licensed.
3. Rag Flock. There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured or sold.
4. Rats and Mice. 19 complaints were received of rats in dwelling houses and 2 complaints were received of rats infesting other premises. Advice was given in respect of 2 cases of mice infestation. The Council's Part-time Rodent Operator continued routine inspection of houses for rats and the Council's sewers at Croscombe, Doulting, Evercreech, Oakhill, Stoke St. Michael and Stratton-on-the-Fosse were tested and treated where necessary. It was again necessary to treat the stream at Croscombe. 71 houses and 1 business premises were treated for the destruction of rats (an increase on last year) and 74 treatments of the Council's sewage works and refuse tip were also carried out.

5. Insect Pests. 10 cases of infestation of Cluster Flies were dealt with during the year and 10 wasps nests were destroyed.

6. FACTORIES. Table K on page 42 shows that 10 factories out of a total of 63 were inspected during the year. At the end of the year there were 27 Outworkers on the Council's list, all employed in the gloving industry.

7. Shops. The provisions of the Shops Acts were borne in mind as routine inspections were made of the food shops.

8. Swill Plants. The powers with respect to the licensing of Swill Boiling Plants under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, were delegated to the Council in 1958 by the County Council. Previously, the police carried out these functions. There are 3 such licensed plants in the district and, although not strictly a public health duty, the 3 plants were inspected.

9. Visits. During the year a total of 3,346 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors. Summarised these visits are as follows :--

	1959	1958
Private houses.....	432 (12.9%).	681 (19.8%).
Improvement Grants.....	230 (7.0%).	336 (9.8%).
Council Houses.....	264 (7.9%).	343 (10.0%).
Drainage.....	782 (23.3%).	510 (14.9%).
Water Supplies.....	129 (3.8%).	39 (1.1%).
General Public Health matters.	524 (15.7%).	716 (20.9%).
Meat & Food Inspection.....	778 (23.2%).	468 (13.6%).
Food Promises.....	93 (2.7%).	93 (2.8%).
Interviews.....	114 (3.4%).	246 (7.2%).

The increase in the number of drainage visits is due to surveying for the Pilton, Holcombe and Ditcheat Sewerage Schemes. The increase in the Meat Inspection visits is due to the coming into operation of the Evercreech Slaughterhouse.

10. Complaints. During the year 78 complaints were received, 6 of which were considered unjustified. The remaining 72 were made up as follows :-

General Housing Matters.....	8
Drainage & Sewage Disposal.....	27
Closets.....	1
Rats & Mice.....	24
Keeping of Animals.....	2
Pollution of Rivers.....	5
Miscellaneous.....	5

As will be seen above, a large number of the complaints were in respect of drainage nuisances.

11. Notices. 48 Informal Notices were served during the year. No Statutory Notices were served.

The position with regard to Notices served is as follows :-

Outstanding at begining of the year.....	39
Served during the year.....	48
Complied with during the year.....	43
Outstanding at the end of the year.....	44

12. Defects Remodiod. The number of defects remedied as a result of Notices is shown in Table J on page 41.

1. General. Improvements to housing conditions in the district again showed satisfactory results. No formal action was taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 but, nevertheless, progress was again made in the making fit of unfit houses. Table C (Condition of houses) on page 36 shows the improvements in general housing conditions in the district and it will be seen that 16 houses in need of major repairs were made fit during the year as compared with 18 in 1958. This was achieved by informal action and by the utilisation of Discretionary Improvement Grants and these processes are continuing. The inovation of Standard Improvement Grants was too late in the year to achieve results in 1959 but it is anticipated these Grants will have beneficial results in the improvement and making fit of houses in the future. The figures quoted only allow for cases with which the Council's Officers are familiar - they do not allow for houses which are repaired by good landlords as a matter of routine and without the Council's knowledge.

2. Slum Clearance. The total number of Unfit houses was reduced by 20 during the year compared with 33 in 1958. The number of unfit houses as ascertained by the comprehensive Housing Survey in 1955 was 326 and by the end of 1959 (after 4 years progress) this number had been reduced to 159. Thus in 4 years 167 houses (51%) have been dealt with - without any major Slum Clearance building schemes having been carried out. The Council's schemes to deal with unfit houses at Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Evercreech, etc., had not been finalised by the end of the year. The position with regard to these re-housing schemes is explained in the section on "Council Houses".

Of the 159 unfit houses still to be dealt with, at the end of the year, 7 were void and uninhabitable, 69 are occupied by Old people whom the Council do not wish to disturb, and 19 are to be repaired and put in order. This leaves a balance of 64 cases for re-housing, including the Stratton-on-the-Fosse and Evercreech schemes mentioned above.

The progress made during the year is shown in Table D (Unfit Houses) on page 37.

Table E (Houses Closed) on page 37 shows that 12 houses were closed by means of Undertakings or Closing Orders. No Demolition Orders were made. Seven houses which had been closed were made fit during the year and the Undertakings cancelled. One house previously condemned is occupied under licence and one house previously condemned but not licensed is still occupied.

3. Improvement Grants. Improvement Grants were still encouraged without restriction and the principle of a grant of 50% (with a maximum of £400) for "Discretionary" Grants was adhered to. The average Discretionary Grant was £324. There was a slight awakening of interest in this type of grant during the year and 18 formal applications were received (compared with 13 in 1958, and 26 in 1957). The Council agreed that some form of publicity on a restricted scale might prove advantageous and gave authorisation for this to be done in selected cases when the need arose. The innovation of "Standard" Improvement Grants later in the year gave an indication that these would be advantageous in helping to maintain the progress made in the improvement of houses in the district. One formal application for a Standard Grant was approved at the end of the year.

Table F on page 38 shows that schemes for the improvement of 11 houses were completed during the year. Of this number 1 was for an owner-occupier and 10 for tenanted houses.

The effect that Improvement Grants has on making unfit houses fit is also shown. In addition to the number of formal applications received numerous enquiries were received which did not materialise into applications.

4. Private Houses Erected. 16 houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.
5. Overcrowding. No cases were discovered during the year and there are no cases on the Council's register.
6. Rent Act, 1957. Not one application for a certificate of disrepair was received during the year and there is no information to show that the Rent Act of 1957 has had any substantial effect in the district on rents generally. Many houses are still let at a very low rental, so low as to make it uneconomic for the owner to carry out substantial repairs or improvements. This state of affairs in many cases is neither good for the tenant, nor for the landlord, and results in a prolongation of sub-standard housing. The Rent Act of 1957 has had no obvious effect in the district on the re-distribution of housing accommodation.

1. Applications for Houses. At the end of the year there were 120 applications on the Council's Housing List, an increase of 4 during the year. Of this total of 120 only 58 cases were considered to have established a housing need, and these 58 applications consisted of 25 young people and 33 old people applying for bungalows. Several of the 25 applications from young people came from the prospective clearance areas at Norton Down and White Post in the parish of Stratton-on-the-Fosse for which a building scheme is being prepared. It is thus obvious that the major housing needs of the district are in respect of old people, the housing needs of families now having been largely resolved except for a few parishes where the building of council houses has met with difficulty.

During the year 7 applicants were re-housed when existing houses became vacant and 4 new Old Peoples Bungalows were erected and occupied during the year.

Details of applications, etc., are given in Table G (Council Houses) on page 39.

2. Building Programme. At the end of 1958 the Council had approved a building programme of 16 houses and 31 old peoples bungalows, including 12 houses for slum clearance at Stratton-on-the-Fosse and 15 bungalows at Evercreech in the old peoples bungalow scheme.

Early in 1959 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the erection of 2 houses at Pilton, 2 bungalows at Croscombe, 2 bungalows at Batcombe and 4 bungalows at Holcombe. At the end of the year construction of the 2 bungalows at Batcombe and the 4 bungalows at Holcombe was under way and a tender for the 2 bungalows

at Croscombe had been accepted.

During the year the number of bungalows agreed for the Evercreech Scheme was revised from 15 to 16 and the number of dwellings agreed at Stratton-on-the-Fosse was revised from 12 to 13. 2 houses were agreed for Cranmore in addition to the 2 bungalows already approved. The Council also agreed to a pair of houses at Downhead, and a scheme for 14 garages at Stoke St. Michael.

At Ditchcat the Council found difficulty in obtaining land for the agreed pair of bungalows. At Pilton the Council were ready to proceed with the pair of houses. Negotiations for the purchase of land for the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Slum Clearance building scheme continued and at the end of the year the Council's Architect was preparing details. During the year the County Council agreed to the Old Peoples Scheme of 16 bungalows and Wardens house with welfare facilities at Evercreech and also agreed to grant a loan and make an annual welfare grant of £480 for this scheme. At the year's end the Architect was preparing details of this scheme.

During the year the 2 bungalows at Stoke St. Michael and the 2 bungalows at Gurney Slade were completed and occupied. Thus, at the end of 1959, the Council's building Programme had materialised as follows:-

- 2 Old Peoples Bungalows at Batcombe - under construction.
- 4 Old Peoples Bungalows at Holcombe - under construction.
- 2 Old Peoples Bungalows at Croscombe - Tenders accepted.
- 2 Old Peoples Bungalows at Ditchcat - No site available.
- 2 Old Peoples Bungalows at Cranmore - Agreed in principle.
- 2 Houses at Cranmore - Agreed in principle.
- 2 Houses at Pilton - Approved by Ministry.

2 Houses at Download - Agreed in principle.

13 Houses & 3 Bungalows at Stratton/Fosse - Plans being prepared.

16 Bungalows, Wardens House, etc., at Evercreech - Plans being prepared.

14 Garages at Stoke St. Michael - Agreed in principle.

(J) INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk. As this part of Somerset is now a Specified Area under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, all milk sold in the district is either Tuberculin-tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. There are no Pasteurisation or Sterilisation Plants in the District. Sampling of milk is carried out mainly by the County Council and for the information received from them of the results of samples taken thanks is acknowledged.

Table L (Premises Registered or Licensed as Food Shops, etc.) on page 43 shows the position in respect of licensing and registration of milk dealers and premises.

2. Ice-Cream. 6 shops were registered during the year for the sale of Ice-cream. All the Ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed and from reputable firms outside the district. There are no premises in the district where ice-cream is manufactured.

3. Food Shop Bye-laws. Bye-laws made under Sec. 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 came into operation in the Rural District in July, 1950. Informal action was taken in some cases and this achieved the necessary results.

4. Food Premises Generally. Table M (Analysis of Food Premises) on page 44 shows the number of food premises in the district. Inspections were carried out as time permitted.

5. Slaughterhouses. The two private slaughterhouses (at Pylle and Evercreech) continued in use during the year. The number of cattle and calves killed at Pylle slaughterhouse during the year was less than in 1958 but more pigs and sheep were killed. The slaughterhouse at Evercreech had its first complete year of usage.

Killing figures at the two slaughterhouses were as follows :-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pylle.....	583	7063	1783	1700	11,129.
Evercreech..	114	20	763	275	1,172.

6. Slaughtermen. One slaughterman's Licence was not renewed during the year and there are now 15 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

7. Meat Inspection. More time was spent on Meat Inspection during the year than in previous years owing to the operation of the new slaughterhouse at Evercreech. Overtime was again necessary for meat inspection duties, particularly at Evercreech where most of the killing is done outside normal office hours. Nevertheless, full inspection of meat was carried out at both slaughterhouses and Tables N & O on pages 45&46 show the amount of meat condemned for various reasons.

As will be seen from Table N on page 45 few carcasses are now condemned for Tuberculosis and the majority of carcasses are condemned for less obvious reasons. Septicaemia, Fever and the like (which are considered much more dangerous conditions from a food consumption point of view) are the major reasons for condemnation of carcasses. Meat condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis out-numbers greatly, in any case, that condemned for Tuberculosis.

The number of "Casualties" killed and inspected remains high and great vigilance is necessary when inspecting this type of carcase.

There were 14 cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* in cattle (the larval stage of the human tape worm) compared with 15 in 1958. There is no drop in the incidence of these cases. Carcasses affected with this disease must be placed in cold storage to kill the larvae and this measure is not popular among butchers.

Assistance in meat inspection was again given to Street U.D.C. on occasions when their Inspector was away.

8. Other Foods Condemned. 33 tins of food, 91 lbs of foodstuff (flour biscuits, etc.) and 218 miscellaneous small items of food and confectionery were condemned by way of voluntary surrender. In most cases proprietors dispose of unsound food without asking for condemnation certificates.

9. Disposal of Condemned Food. Meat is disposed of to approved fertilizer manufacturers and other foods are buried, when necessary, on the refuse tip.

TABLE A - ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED TO HOUSES EITHER OCCUPIED
OR CAPABLE OF BEING OCCUPIED.

PARISH.	No. of Houses		No. having piped water supply into or onto the houses.		No. of Houses supplied by Standpipe.		No. of Houses with wells, springs, etc. laid on internally.		No. of Houses with external supply from well or springs.	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Ashwick.	328	329	299	302	22	21	6	5	1	1
Batcombe.	134	136	98	102	4	3	32	31	-	-
Binegar	84	83	68	69	11	10	3	3	2	1
Bradley W.	86	86	84	84	-	-	-	-	2	2
Cranmore.	120	119	93	95	14	12	11	11	2	1
Croscombe.	182	185	153	160	20	16	7	7	2	2
Ditcheat.	202	200	187	188	13	10	2	2	-	-
Doulting.	177	181	149	154	17	16	7	7	4	4
Downhead.	34	34	23	23	3	3	7	8	1	-
Emborough.	48	46	40	42	4	-	2	2	2	2
Evercreech.	468	470	430	434	16	14	21	21	1	1
Holcombe.	202	204	192	194	9	9	1	1	-	-
Lamyat.	46	46	36	36	-	-	7	7	3	3
Lydford.	117	118	102	105	1	1	11	9	3	3
Milton.C.	34	33	24	24	2	1	8	8	-	-
E. Pennard.	119	118	94	93	-	-	16	16	9	9
Pilton.	250	251	228	220	4	4	17	16	1	1
Pylle.	48	48	40	40	-	-	7	7	1	1
Stoke St. M.	229	232	212	216	10	9	5	5	2	2
Stratton/ Fosse.	291	288	243	246	31	26	13	13	4	3
Total	3199	3207	2795	2837	181	155	183	179	40	36
Percentage	-	-	87.4	88.5	5.6	4.8	5.7	5.6	1.3	1.1

TABLE B - SANITARY FACILITIES OF HOUSES

	1958	1959
Total Houses in District (but not including void houses controlled by Undertakings or Closing Orders).	3,199.	3,207.
(1) Water Supply		
(a) Internal Supply		
Houses with Council main water.	2466 (77.1%)	2516 (78.5%)
Houses with private main water.	257 (8.0%)	252 (7.8%)
Houses with well, spring, etc., piped to house.	183 (5.7%)	179 (5.6%)
Total Houses with Internal Supply.	2,906 (90.8%)	2,947 (91.9%)
(b) External Supply (Individual)		
(a) From Council main.	70 (2.2%)	68 (2.12%)
(b) From Private main.	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.03%)
(c) Well, spring, etc.	40 (1.2%)	36 (1.12%)
Total houses with individual external supply.	112 (3.5%)	105 (3.27%)
(c) No individual supply		
From standpipe on Council main.	162 (5.1%)	139 (4.3%)
From standpipe on private main.	19 (0.6%)	16 (0.5%)
Total houses with no individual supply.	181 (5.7%)	155 (4.8%)
(2) Closets		
Houses with own water closet.	2,453 (76.7%)	2,516 (78.6%)
Houses with shared water closets.	16 (0.5%)	14 (0.4%)
Houses with own pail or chemical closet.	657 (20.5%)	617 (19.2%)
Houses with shared " " "	4 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)
Houses with privy.	69 (2.2%)	56 (1.7%)
(3) Drainage		
Houses drained to public sewer.	1000 (31.3%)	1021 (31.8%)
Houses drained to satisfactory cesspit or septic tank.	1473 (46.0%)	1516 (47.3%)
Houses with unsatisfactory or no drainage.	726 (22.7%)	670 (20.9%)
(4) Other Sanitary Appliances		
Houses with no sink.	312 (9.8%)	281 (8.8%)
Houses with no bath.	1245 (38.9%)	1197 (37.3%)

TABLE C - CONDITION OF HOUSES (FITNESS)

	End of 1958	End of 1959
<u>Total Houses in District.</u> (Not including void houses controlled by Undertakings or Closing Orders).	3,199.	3,207.
Houses unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense.	179	159
Houses in need of major repairs.	173	157
Houses in need of minor repairs.	470	470
Houses with some Public Health defect(s) (mainly dampness or drainage).	496	503
Pre-war private houses fit in all respects.	1,228	1,245
Post-war private houses.	133	149
Council Houses.	520	524

TABLE D - UNFIT HOUSES

	Position as result of Survey - May, 1955.	Dealt with to 31.12.58.	Dealt with 1959.	Balance at 31.12.59.
Void houses not under control.	36	26	3	7
Houses occupied by old folk who do not wish to be disturbed.	108	33	6	69
Occupied houses where owner wishes to make fit	48	24	5	19
Houses where tenants will have to be re- housed.	134	64	6	64
TOTALS	326	147	20	159

The number of unfit houses in the district has been reduced by 58% in the past 4 years (i.e. since Slum Clearance has been resumed).
21 houses are in process of being made fit and are therefore not included in the above figures.

TABLE E - HOUSES CLOSED

Total void unfit houses in respect of which an Undertaking (not to permit re-occupation until made fit) was in force at 31.12.58.	69
New Undertakings accepted 1959.	12
Made fit during the year.	7
Converted to agricultural stores.	0
Demolished.	0
Balance at 31.12.59.	74

Of the balance of 74 houses which are still unfit and in respect of which Undertakings are still in force, proposals to make fit have been received in respect of 19 of these which leaves 55 houses void and controlled by Undertakings of which there is no information at present as to whether they may be made fit or not.

TABLE F - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - 1959.

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

1. No. of Applications Approved.

	Approved.		Rejected.	
	Applic- ations.	No. of Houses.	Applic- ations.	No. of Houses.
(a) to 31.12.58.	87	96	Nil	Nil
(b) during 1959.	18	18	Nil	Nil
Totals to-date.	105	114	Nil	Nil

2. Schemes Completed.

	Owner/ Occupier	Tenanted Houses.	Total	Previous Category of Houses.				
				Unfit	Major Rep- airs	Minor Rep- airs	Fit	Non Dom- estic
(a) to 31.12.58.	33	46	79	15	17	39	7	1
(b) During 1959.	1	10	11	4	3	2	2	-
Totals to-date.	34	56	90	19	20	41	9	1

B. STANDARD GRANTS.

1. No. of Applications.

	Approved.	Rejected.
During 1959.	1	Nil

2. No. of Schemes Completed.

N I L.

TABLE G - COUNCIL HOUSES - 1959.

APPLICATIONS.

(a) All cases including Old Peoples Bungalows.

On list at 1.1.1959.....	116
New Applications - 1959.....	45
Cancelled or otherwise removed from the list.....	41
On list at 31.12.1959.....	120

(b) Recommended Cases only.

	Total	Families	Old People
On list at 1.1.1959.	63	36	27
New Applications, 1959	28	13	15
Cancelled or otherwise removed from list.	33	24	9
On list at 31.12.1959	58	25	33

(NOTE In addition to the 33 Old People applying for bungalows at 31.12.1959, 10 old people occupying Council Houses had applied for re-housing in a bungalow).

HOUSES ALLOCATED

Number of houses erected by Council and occupied during the year.....	4
Number of existing houses re-allocated.....	7
Total....	11

TABLE H - VISITS.

		<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
1. Dwelling Houses - Public Health Acts.....	58	109	
2. Dwelling Houses - Housing Acts.....	618	323	
3. Improvement Grants.....	336	230	
4. Overcrowding.....	-	-	
5. Council Houses.....	343	264	
6. Water Supplies.....	40	129	
7. Drainage & Sewage Disposal.....	510	782	
8. Infectious Diseases.....	5	5	
9. Atmospheric Pollution.....	3	26	
10. Refuse Collection & Disposal.....	128	86	
11. Rats & Mice Suppression (By Rodent Operator)...	2036	1823	
12. Rats, Mice & Other Vermin (by P.H. Inspectors).	21	96	
13. Stables / Piggeries.....	17	23	
14. Moveable Dwellings.....	21	52	
15. Factories & Workshops.....	10	15	
16. Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouse.....	466	761	
17. Other Food Inspection.....	2	17	
18. Butchers.....	12	17	
19. Ice-Cream Dealers.....	10	12	
20. Public Houses.....	2	18	
21. Canteens / Restaurants.....	7	13	
22. Other Food Premises.....	54	33	
23. Interviews.....	246	114	
24. Miscellaneous.....	510	221	

TABLE J - DEFECTS, ETC., REMEDIED AS A
RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICES

	<u>1959</u>
Roofs Repaired.....	2
Drains cleared, repaired, renewed or provided.....	18
Cesspool/Sewage Tanks cleansed, repaired, renewed or provided.....	8
Closets repaired, renewed or provided.....	3
Sinks renewed/provided.....	1
Offensive accumulations removed.....	2
Premises freed from Insect Pests.....	20
Nuisances from animals.....	2
Miscellaneous Public Health contraventions.....	9
Food premises - Contraventions remedied.....	14

Note These figures do not include defects remedied voluntarily, or by way of Improvement Grants or by making fit unfit houses.

TABLE K - FACTORIES.

1. Inspection.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occurs. Prosecuted
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority (Non-power Factories)	10	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local Authorities (Power Factories).	53	14	1	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding out-workers premises).	Nil	-	-	-
Totals	63	15	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Defects	No. of cases where defects were found				No. of prosec- utions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspr.	By H.M. Inspr.	
Lack of cleanliness (Sec. 1).	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory Temperature (Sec. 3).	-	-	-	-	-
Ventilation (Sec. 4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of floors (Sec. 6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7).					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

TABLE L - PREMISES REGISTERED OR LICENCED AS FOOD PREMISES ETC.

MILK	
No. of licenced dealers in Pasteurised Milk	1
No. of licenced dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk.	3
No. of Supplementary licenses for the sale of designated milks issued to Distributors outside the Council's area.	10
No. of Registered Dairies (other than Dairy Farms).	3

ICE - CREAM	
No. of premises registered for manufacture.	Nil
No. of premises registered for sale.	45

PRESERVED FOODS ETC.	
No. of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages.	5

TABLE M - ANALYSIS OF FOOD PREMISES

Business carried on.	Total	Inspec- tions.	Notices served.	Contraven- tions Remedied
Butchers only.....	2	3	-	-
Butchers & Sausage Manufacturers.....	5	14	-	-
Public Houses only.....	26	12	-	3
Public House & Restaurant...	4	3	-	-
Public House & Ice-cream Dealer.....	4	3	2	1
Public House, Restaurant & Ice-cream Dealer.....	2	-	-	-
Grocers & Greengrocers.....	14	15	1	5
Grocer & Ice-cream Dealer...	28	22	3	5
Bakehouse only.....	2	4	1	-
Bakehouse & Ice-cream Dealer.	1	2	-	-
Confectioner only.....	4	-	-	-
Restaurant & Canteen.....	6	10	1	-
Restaurant, Grocer & Ice- cream Dealer.....	2	2	-	-
Restaurant & Ice-cream Dealer.....	2	1	-	-
Ice-cream Dealer only.....	5	2	-	-
Food Factory.....	1	-	-	-
Food Factory & Canteen.....	1	-	-	-
Wet & Fried Fish.....	2	-	-	-
Cheese Store.....	1	-	-	-
Total.	112	93	8	14

TABLE N - MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED 1959.

1. WHOLE CARCASSES AND OFFAL CONDEMNED.

Condemned for	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Septicaemia.	0	0	16	2	43	61
Tuberculosis.	1	0	0	0	2	3
Misc. Diseases.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fevered, ill-bled.	0	3	25	4	23	55
Dropsy.	1	1	4	11	14	31
Moribund.	0	0	2	1	3	6
Jaundice.	0	0	1	0	0	1
Misc. Conditions.	0	0	0	1	2	3
TOTALS	2	4	48	19	87	160

2. PART CARCASSES CONDEMNED.

Condemned for	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Tuberculosis.	0	0	0	0	30	30
Abscesses.	1	3	1	1	28	34
Damage.	4	5	5	10	23	47
Pleurisy/ Peritonitis.	2	5	2	2	10	21
Misc. Conditions.	3	3	3	3	27	39
TOTALS.	10	16	11	16	118	171

3. OFFAL CONDEMNED.

2, 288 items of edible offal (Heads, Tongues, Lungs, Livers, Kidneys, etc.) were condemned.

4. TOTAL ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED. 12,301

Cows.	Other Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs, etc.
215.	484.	7,083.	2,546.	1,975.

TABLE O - MEAT INSPECTION - 1959.

	Cattle (excl- uding Cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed.	484	213	7,083	2,546	1,975	-
Number Inspected.	484	213	7,083	2,546	1,975	-
(A) Meat & Offal						
Condemned for						
Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcasses Condemned.	-	-	-	-	2	-
Part Carcasses or						
Organs Condemned.	1	-	-	-	31	-
Percentage of Animals aff- ected with Tuberculosis.	0.2	-	-	-	1.7	-
(B) Meat & Offal						
Condemned for						
Cysticercus Bovis.						
Generalised-carcases totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	15	1	-	-	-	-
Part Carcasses or Organs condemned.	15	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases affected with C Bovis but condemned for some other reason.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of animals affected with Cysticercus Bovis.	3.1	0.5	-	-	-	-
(C) All Other Diseases.						
Whole carcases condemned.	1	4	48	19	85	-
Part carcases or organs condemned.	142	124	264	316	1159	-
Percentage of animals affected.	29.5	60.1	4.4	13.2	63.0	-
(D) Weight of Meat and Offal condemned.						
(in lbs.) for :-						
(a) Tuberculosis.	19	-	-	-	379	-
(b) Cysticercus Bovis.	666	43	-	-	-	-
(c) Other Diseases.	2310	4304	3576	2260	10,692	-

TOTAL WEIGHTS CONDEMNED.

Tuberculosis. . .	3cwts 2qtrs 6lbs.
Cysticercus Bovis..	6cwts 1qtr 9lbs.
Other Diseases. . .	10tons 6cwts 2qtrs 14lbs.

